



With each new day comes a new eye-popping data point demonstrating the unsustainable collision course we are on with high-priced drugs. New federal data shows that government programs serving low-income and senior populations are spending large sums on specialty treatments.

Gilead hepatitis C pill was biggest 2015 drug cost for Medicare, Medicaid

By Ed Silverman | November 14, 2016 | [STAT](#)

“The latest dive into Medicaid and Medicare prescription drug data shows that the federal health care programs spent more on the Harvoni hepatitis C treatment last year than any other medicine.

“Medicare Part D spent slightly more than \$7 billion on the Gilead Sciences product, while Medicaid coughed up nearly \$2.2 billion for the drug...”

Two Drugs Are Costing Taxpayers an Outrageous \$8 Billion a Year

By Eric Pianin | November 15, 2016 | [The Fiscal Times](#)

“...Obama administration officials yesterday voiced alarm about the industry’s pricing practices and the larger effect they are having on the economy. Last year, for example, spending on prescription drugs totaled \$457 billion, or nearly 17 percent of personal health care spending. This is up from \$367 billion, or 15.4 percent of personal health care spending in 2012.

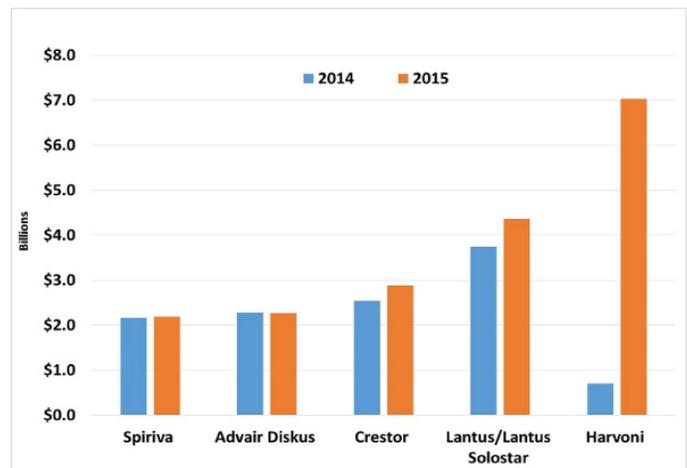
"Because Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries often live on low- and fixed-incomes, the high and rising cost of certain drugs takes a significant toll on them," Andy Slavitt, CMS' acting administrator, said in a [blog post](#). "And prescription drug costs don't only hit American seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income families; they also have a significant impact on taxpayers."

Read More: <http://bit.ly/2gkLR0R> & <http://bit.ly/2gkSve8>

Access CMS' Data: <http://go.cms.gov/2f15u53> & <http://go.cms.gov/2f8trPi>

The California Association of Health Plans' RunawayRx project sheds light on the acceleration of prescription drug pricing and how it impacts health care affordability, encouraging a route toward sustainable pricing. For more information, please visit www.RunawayRx.org or follow us on Twitter at [@Runaway Rx](#).

Trends in Medicare Part D Total Spending for the Top 5 Drugs in 2015



Drugs with Large Increases in Average Medicaid Cost per Unit, 2014 to 2015

